

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 15-26, 29-43, and 47-56 were rejected on art grounds. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 13-14, 27-28, and 44-46.

With a view towards furthering prosecution, independent claims 1, 16, and 30 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claims 13, 27, and 44, which have now been cancelled. Claims 14, 28, and 45-46 have also been amended to depend from claims 1, 16, and 30, respectively, instead of from cancelled claims 13, 27, and 44. Some minor conforming amendments have also been made in claims 31, 33, 35, and 45. All claim amendments have been made without prejudice, and applicants preserve their right to pursue the previously pending or other claims in a continuing application.

Because of the amendment of the three independent claims to include the subject matter of three allowable claims, all claims should now be allowed. Applicants believe that after considering these amendments, the Examiner will agree.

**REQUEST CONCERNING PTO-1449 FORM
RECEIVED BY PTO ON OCTOBER 14, 2005**

Applicants would appreciate the Examiner's initializing and returning to applicants a copy of that PTO-1449 form to evidence consideration of the art identified on that form.

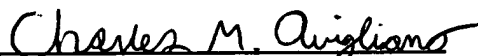
CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, entry of the amendments, withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this paper, please contact the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 12, 2006.


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Respectfully submitted,

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